

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing system comprising:  
first addition means for adding copyright  
information to a digital content; and  
5 second addition means for adding a sampling  
program to one of the digital content or an application  
program for utilizing the digital content, the sampling  
program being automatically activated to sample the  
copyright information from the digital content,  
10 wherein the digital content is utilized in  
accordance with the copyright information sampled by  
the sampling program.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein said  
15 first addition means adds the copyright information to  
the digital content added with the sampling program by  
said second addition means.

3. A medium for transferring a digital content,  
20 comprising:  
first transfer means for transferring the digital  
content embedded with copyright information; and  
second transfer means for transferring a sampling  
program so as to allow the copyright information to be  
25 sampled from the digital content transferred by said  
first transfer means, the sampling program being  
automatically activated to sample the copyright

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information from the digital content,  
wherein the digital content is utilized in  
accordance with the copyright information sampled by  
the sampling program from the digital content.

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4. A medium according to claim 3, wherein said  
second transfer means transfers the application program  
for utilizing the digital content by adding the  
sampling program to the application program.

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5. A medium according to claim 3, wherein the  
medium is a communication medium.

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6. A medium according to claim 3, wherein the  
medium is a storage medium.

7. An information processing apparatus  
comprising:

20 first addition means for adding copyright  
information to a digital content; and  
second addition means for adding a sampling  
program to one of the digital content or an application  
program for utilizing the digital content, the sampling  
program being automatically activated to sample the  
25 copyright information from the digital content,  
wherein the digital content is utilized in  
accordance with the copyright information sampled by

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the sampling program.

8. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein  
said first addition means adds the copyright  
5 information to the digital content added with the  
sampling program by said second addition means.

9. An information processing apparatus for  
processing a digital content embedded with copyright  
10 information, comprising:

means for automatically activating a sampling  
program for sampling the copyright information from the  
digital content; and

15 means for utilizing the digital content in  
accordance with the copyright information sampled by  
the sampling program.

10. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein  
the sampling program is added to the digital content.

20 11. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein  
the sampling program is added to an application program  
for utilizing the digital content.

25 12. An information processing method comprising  
the steps of:

adding copyright information to a digital content

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for restricting utilization of the digital content; and  
adding a sampling program to one of the digital  
content or an application program for utilizing the  
digital content, the sampling program being  
5 automatically activated to sample the copyright  
information from the digital content.

13. An information processing method for  
processing a digital content embedded with copyright  
10 information, the method comprising the steps of:  
automatically activating a sampling program for  
sampling the copyright information from the digital  
content; and  
utilizing the digital content in accordance with  
15 the copyright information sampled by the sampling  
program.

14. A storage medium storing a program for  
executing a process of an information processing  
20 method, the program comprising the steps of:  
adding copyright information to a digital content  
for restricting utilization of the digital content; and  
adding a sampling program to one of the digital  
content or an application program for utilizing the  
25 digital content, the sampling program being  
automatically activated to sample the copyright  
information from the digital content.

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15. A storage medium storing a program for executing a process of an information processing method for processing a digital content embedded with copyright information, the program comprising the steps

5 of:

automatically activating a sampling program for sampling the copyright information from the digital content; and

10 utilizing the digital content in accordance with the copyright information sampled by the sampling program.

16. An information processing system for dealing with a file containing a plurality of digital contents, comprising:

sampling means for sampling predetermined information from the file, the predetermined information restricting utilization of each digital content; and

20 utilizing means for utilizing each digital content in accordance with the sampled predetermined information.

17. A system according to claim 16, wherein the predetermined information is embedded in each digital content.

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18. An information processing apparatus for dealing with a file containing a plurality of digital contents, comprising:

- sampling means for sampling predetermined information from the file, the predetermined information restricting utilization of each digital content; and
- utilizing means for utilizing each digital content in accordance with the sampled predetermined information.